

March 7, 2006

The Honorable David Dreier
Chairman
House Rules Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise Slaughter
Ranking Member
House Rules Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

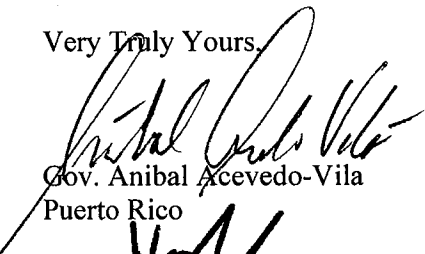
Dear Chairman Dreier and Rep. Slaughter:

We write to express our concern over H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Foods Act currently in House. In its current form, this bill would prohibit state and local governments from establishing or continuing wide-ranging requirements for food safety as enacted in the states over the last several decades.

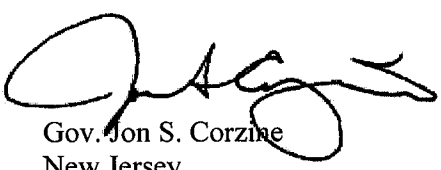
While states would be given the option to request an exemption to continue their more stringent guidelines from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), this legislation would hinder hundreds of laws in the vast majority of states. Further, it would exempt food manufacturers from complying with existing protections even in areas where the FDA has not acted. The nation's Democratic governors urge you to reconsider holding a vote until hearings have been conducted on this wide-ranging legislation. Further, we urge you to ensure that any legislation which pre-empts existing state authority continues or enhances the high level of public health protection already provided by the states.

These laws are extremely important components of the states' responsibility to protect the health of our citizens. States must have the right to act quickly to address public health issues that have not been addressed by the federal government. If enacted, this legislation could have the adverse effect of weakening food-safety and consumer protection standards for millions of Americans.

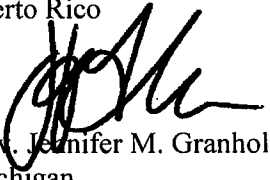
Very Truly Yours,



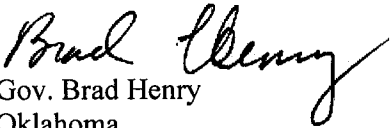
Gov. Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Puerto Rico



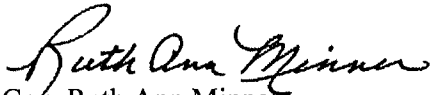
Gov. Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan




Gov. Brad Henry
Oklahoma



Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



Gov. Bill Richardson
New Mexico



Gov. Tom Vilsack
Iowa